

SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

December Half term edition



Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

Welcome to the December edition of the Science Newsletter!

December 2025

The Science Department works very hard to provide exciting and challenging lessons to our students so we'd love to keep you up to date with all the fun!



Science at Parkfields this half term...

KS2 have been focused on....

Year 5 have begun the Properties and Materials topic, grasping the differences between Solids, Liquids and Gases and their properties and classifying different materials.

We've also been busy testing fabric stretch, absorbency, viscosity and how well different materials conduct heat.

Some have also begun the Earth and Space topic- looking at the moon's phases, the solar system and stars!

Year 6 are understanding the importance of electrical safety, hazards and how to make functional circuits using Locktronics equipment. Recently, students made their own circuit switches and quiz cards, whereby the bulb would light up when the answer was correct. There were some very creative ideas!

Here's what KS3 have been up to:

Year 7 have been learning all about forces, determining which forces are responsible for pushing and pulling, and how we can reduce the different forces acting upon an object. We have been working through Chemistry topics starting with particles and states of matter. This topic includes plenty of exciting and challenging practicals to solidify those skills! The topic of Sound has also been started, determining the types of waves, demonstrating vibrations in troughs of water and understanding how sound travels through different media.

Year 8 have been working through the Periodic table topic - focusing on the differences in properties between metal and non-metals and how the different periodic Groups are organised. We have also demonstrated how reactive some of the Group 1 metals are with water...behind the safety of the fume cupboard, of course! In Biology, we have begun the Ecosystems topic, learning all about food chains and webs, prey-predator interactions and environmental adaptations. We will be starting the topic of Inheritance towards the end of term and continuing after the holidays.

Click the link to see the Alkali metals reacting to water, some far too dangerous for us to demonstrate!

https://youtu.be/1c6McnSdOg8?si=O2vudJuZccIPw3_C

GOLDEN BUNSEN BURNER AWARDS THIS HALF TERM...

Who will win the **GOLDEN** pencil and receive a golden Bunsen Burner on their desk?



KS2 AWARD WINNERS

NYA N-S
RUBY C

KS3 AWARD WINNERS

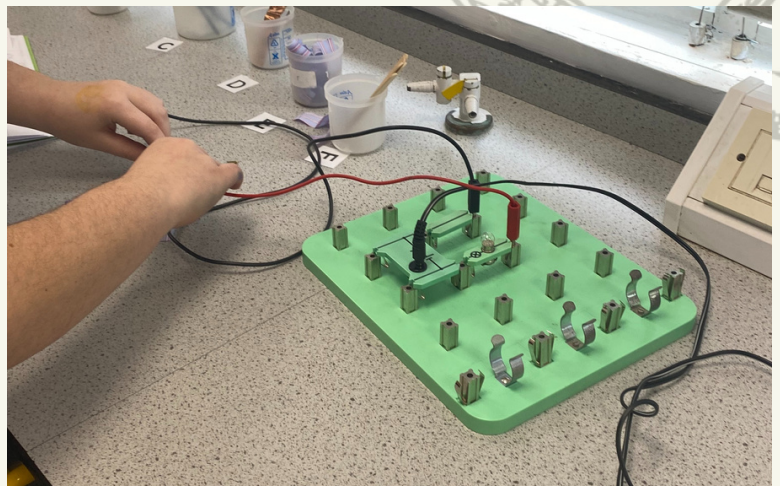
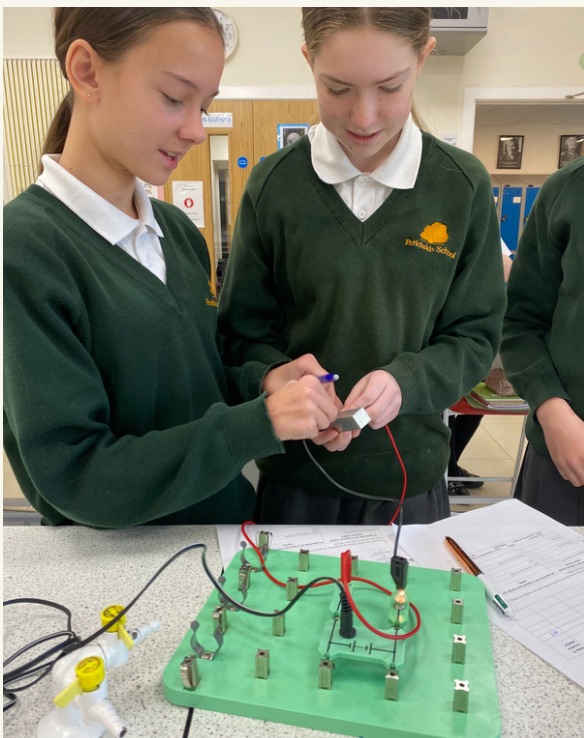
ELSIE R
LEWIS C
COREY J
ALUN S
LEE G
VICTOR K
AVA L
LILLY RAE S
FELICITY N
LUCAS M
MARCUS G
ALFIE P
FINLEY D
JOE F
COLBY D

KAI D
ELLIE H
POTAP Z
FLORENCE Y
MASON R
GEORGE R
CHLOE W
ALICE B
HARRY B
CLAY A
ISABELLE H
SAIRA S
GRACE Q



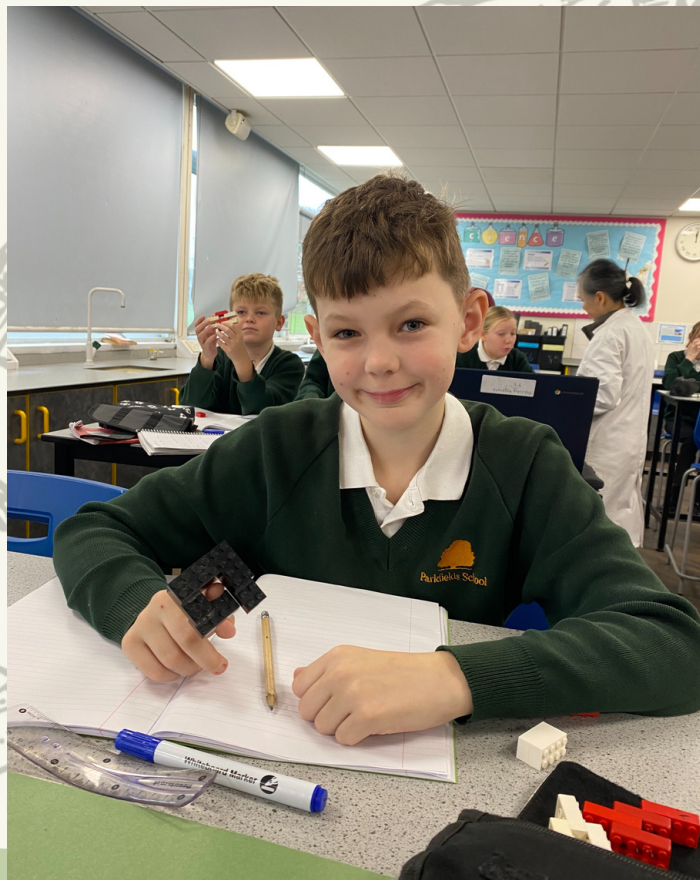
KS3

Year 8s - Testing electrical conductivity of different materials

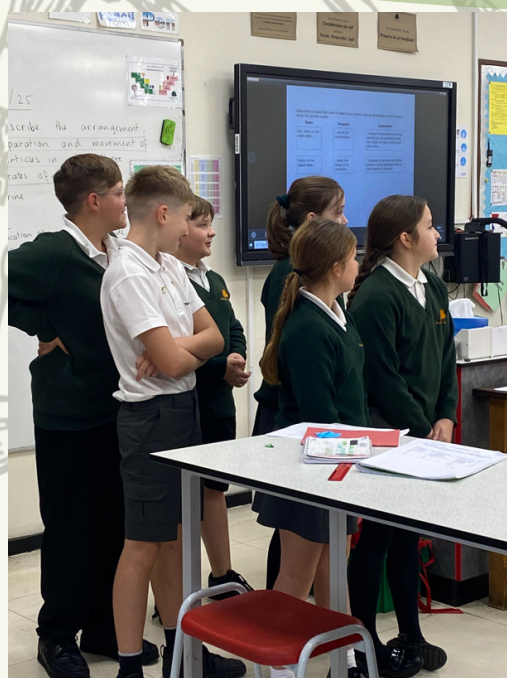




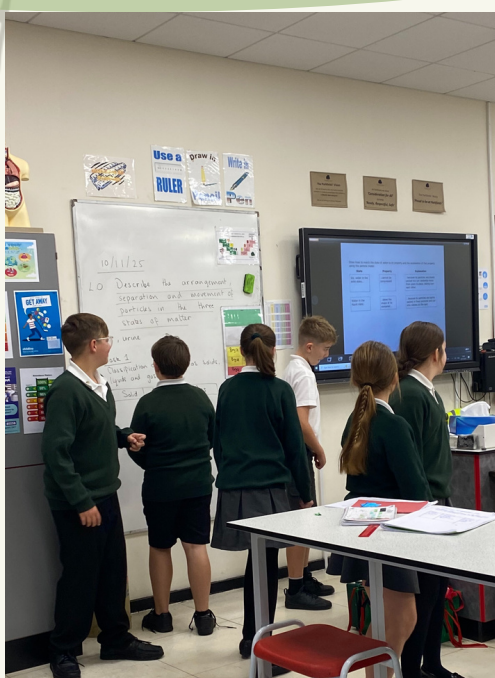
Year 7s- Particle arrangement using Lego models



Our Y7 students demonstrated particle formation in states of matter...what a fantastic job!



SOLID



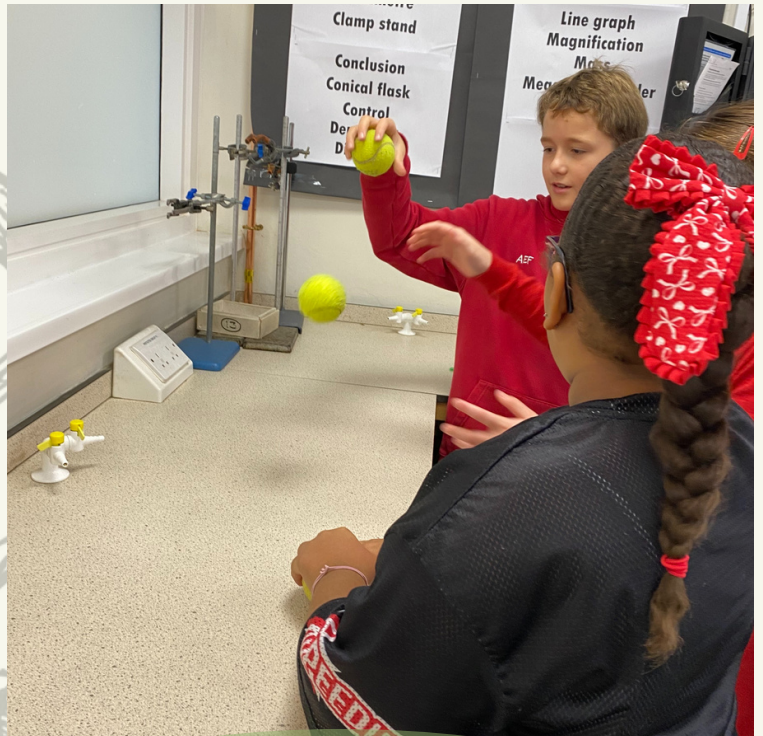
LIQUID



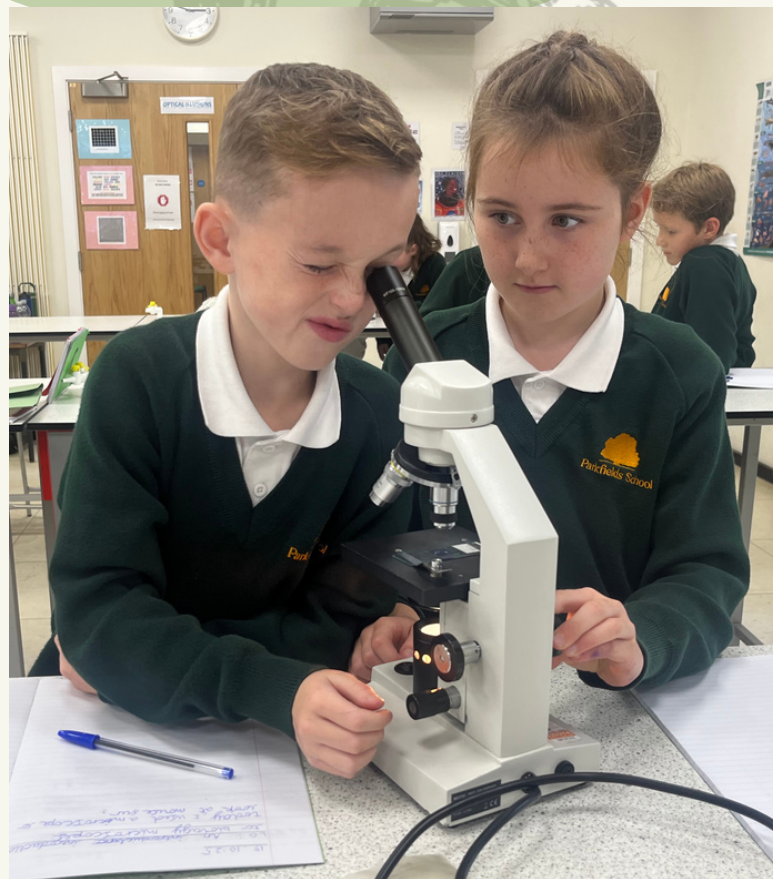
GAS

KS2

Year 5s- Determining independent and dependent variables in their experiments



...And practicing how to use the light microscopes!





Year 6s- Building an electrical circuit using Locktronics!



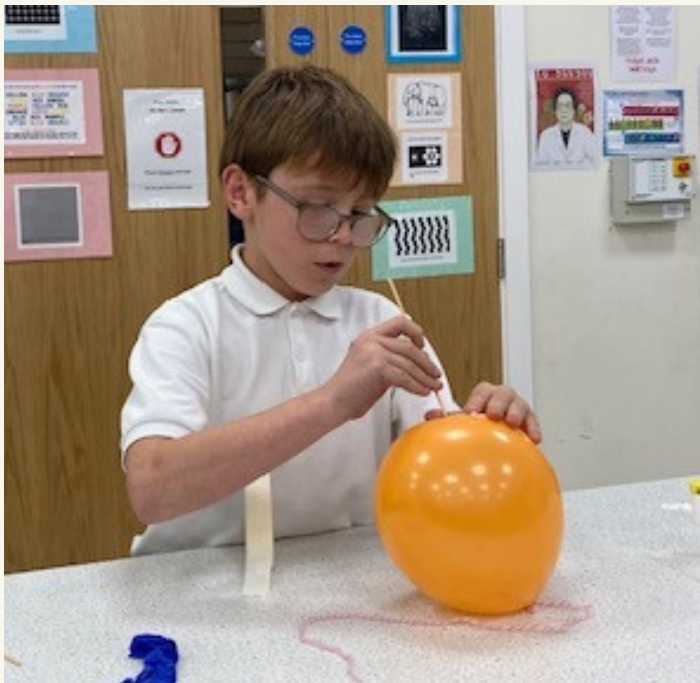
And...Switch making, using both conductive and insulating materials.



OUR Y8 SCIENCE LEADERS ARE.....

**LOTTIE S
HARRY B
DEXTER T
ALUN S
DHUVARAGA K
CHLOE W
MELCHI A**

**LILY-MARIE T
ALICE B
ISLA B
TOBY T
AVA L
EVELYN H
GRACE F**



OPEN EVENING **WITH OUR SCIENCE LEADERS!!**



FLAME TESTING!



RED CABBAGE INDICATOR

**A BIG thank you to
our Science Leaders
for helping out at
our Open Evening.
Your passion for
science shone
through and you all
did a wonderful job!!**



A RARE FRIEND HAS INHABITED THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.... A WILD BLACK SQUIRREL!



Our first sighting of the squirrel was back in September, and it seems to have made a home in a few trees on site!

Squirrels with black fur are thought to be lacking in a specific pigment gene, causing them to look different than grey squirrels. How interesting!

There are predicted to be around **25,000** black squirrels in the UK, though seem to be largely concentrated in Beds, Herts, and Cambridgeshire; with the first spotted in 1912!.

A **BIG well done** to Kai, who brought in his DIY radio and demonstrated it for his peers.

We were all incredibly impressed!!
It deserved a Golden Bunsen Burner Award, without a doubt!



SCIENCE CLUB

COMING TO ALL STUDENTS - IN SPRING HALF TERM



ALL YEARS WELCOME!

What could be a better use of YOUR **Wednesday lunchtime** than coming over to the Science Department to do a wide array of experiments!

HAVE our YEAR 8 LEADERS RUN EPIC EXPERIMENTS!*

TAKE PART IN THE FUN AND BECOME SCIENTISTS!

IN LAB 2- EVERY WEDNESDAY 1.10-1.35PM after the Christmas holidays.

(*Supervised by Mrs Cao, Mrs Bracey and Miss Scarborough)

DIY YOUR OWN CRYSTALS, VOLCANOS, AIR HOCKEY, SELF INFLATING BALLOONS, DISAPPEARING OBJECTS AND MORE!



CONSTRUCT AN ERUPTING VOLCANO!!



DIY EPSOM SALT CRYSTALS!



MAKE RAINBOW MAGIC MILK



YOUR HALF-TERMLY SCIENCE JOKE IS.....

Q: Why can't you trust atoms?

A: Because they make up everything!!



THE PARKFIELDS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



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Parkfields School
FLOURISH, LEARN AND GROW